

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[65] An electrical connector assembly includes a plug having front end including a mating interface and a receptacle having an opening configured to receive the mating interface of the plug. A deflectable latch includes a beam having a front end secured with the front end of the plug housing and a rear, free-standing end which is biasable towards the plug to permit the plug and receptacle to be mated with one another. The latch includes first and second latching projections extending from opposite sides of the beam. First and second latch mating elements are positioned within the receptacle opening to securely engage the first and second latching projections when the plug and receptacle housings are fully mated with one another. The plug and receptacle include first and second mating keying features. One of the keying features is configured to prevent other plugs with mating interfaces of the same size from being inserted into the receptacle. The other keying feature being configured to prevent smaller plugs from being inserted into the receptacle. The overall envelope of the plug's mating interface is reduced by defining one of the keying features in a side wall of the plug opposite that of the latch, while defining the other keying feature in one of the top and bottom walls of the mating interface.